

What is claimed is:

1. An image processing device comprising:

a character recognition unit that recognizes character codes from character images in image data and also detects character recognition certainty, which is a degree of correctly recognizing character codes;

a conversion unit that converts the character images to character code data according to the character codes; and

a judgment unit that judges whether the character images should be converted to the character code data, wherein said judgment unit judges whether all character images contained in a specific character image group formed as an assembly of multiple adjoining character images should be prohibited from being converted into character code data depending on the character recognition certainty of said character images contained in the character image group.

2. An image processing device of claim 1 wherein;

said judgment unit judges that all character images contained in said character image group should be prohibited from being converted into character code data if the number of character images contained in said character image group, whose character recognition certainties are smaller than a first prescribed value, is larger than a second prescribed

value.

3. An image processing device of claim 1 wherein;

said judgment unit judges that all character images contained in said character image group should be prohibited from being converted into character code data if the ratio of the number of character images contained in the character image group, whose character recognition certainties are smaller than a first prescribed value, against the total number of character images contained in said character image group is larger than a second prescribed value.

4. An image processing device of claim 1 wherein;

said judgment unit judges that all character images contained in said character image group should be prohibited from being converted into character code data if the average of character recognition certainties of all character images contained in said character image group is smaller than a prescribed value.

5. An image processing device of claim 1 wherein;

said judgment unit judges that all character images contained in said character image group should be prohibited from being converted into character code data if the character recognition certainty of at least one of the character images contained in said character image group is smaller than a first prescribed value and said at least one character image

is in italics.

6. An image processing device of claim 5 wherein;

said judgment unit judges that a character image is in italics if a straight line that passes through an edge of said character image in a direction character images are aligned and is perpendicular to said direction intersects with an adjacent character image.

7. An image processing device of claim 1 wherein;

said judgment unit judges that all character images contained in said character image group should be prohibited from being converted into character code data if the character recognition certainty of at least one of the character images contained in said character image group is smaller than a first prescribed value and said at least one character image also forms a pair as an object for kerning with a character image adjacent to said at least one character image.

8. An image processing device of claim 7 wherein;

said character image group consists only of multiple character images that form pairs for kerning.

9. An image processing device of claim 1 further comprising:

a character image data forming unit that forms character image data by cutting out from said image data the character images that are prohibited from being converted into character code data by said judgment unit.

10. An image processing device of claim 1 further comprising:  
a file forming unit to form an electronic file containing character code data generated by said conversion unit.

11. A program product for image processing, said program product causing a computer to execute a process comprising the steps of:

1) recognizing character codes from character images contained in image data;

2) detecting character recognition certainty, which is a degree of correctly recognizing character codes in step 1);

3) judging whether all character images contained in a specific character image group formed as an assembly of multiple adjoining character images should be prohibited from being converted into character code data depending on the character recognition certainty of said character images contained in the character image group.

12. A program product of claim 11 wherein;

it is judged at said step 3) that all character images contained in said character image group should be prohibited from being converted into character code data if the number of character images contained in said character image group, whose character recognition certainties are smaller than a first prescribed value, is larger than a second prescribed

value.

13. A program product of claim 11 wherein;

it is judged at said step 3) that all character images contained in said character image group should be prohibited from being converted into character code data if the ratio of the number of character images contained in the character image group, whose character recognition certainties are smaller than a first prescribed value, against the total number of character images contained in said character image group is larger than a second prescribed value.

14. A program product of claim 11 wherein;

it is judged at said step 3) that all character images contained in said character image group should be prohibited from being converted into character code data if the average of character recognition certainties of all character images contained in said character image group is smaller than a prescribed value.

15. A program product of claim 11 wherein;

it is judged at said step 3) that all character images contained in said character image group should be prohibited from being converted into character code data if the character recognition certainty of at least one of the character images contained in said character image group is smaller than a first prescribed value and said at least one character image

is in italics.

16. A program product of claim 15 wherein;

it is judged at said step 3) that a character image is in italics if a straight line that passes through an edge of said character image in a direction character images are aligned and is perpendicular to said direction intersects with an adjacent character image.

17. A program product of claim 11 wherein;

it is judged at said step 3) that all character images contained in said character image group should be prohibited from being converted into character code data if the character recognition certainty of at least one of the character images contained in said character image group is smaller than a first prescribed value and said at least one character image also forms a pair as an object for kerning with a character image adjacent to said at least one character image.

18. A program product of claim 17 wherein;

said character image group consists only of multiple character images that form pairs for kerning.

19. A program product of claim 11 wherein; said process further comprising the step of:

4) forming character image data by cutting out from said image data the character images that are prohibited from being converted into character code data in said step 3).

20. A program product of claim 11 wherein; said process further comprising the step of:

5) forming an electronic file containing character code data converted from said character images.